United Nations E/2010/NGO/82

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
6 May 2010
English
Original: French

Substantive session of 2010
New York, 28 June-22 July 2010
Item 2(b) of the provisional agenda*
Development Cooperation Forum

Statement submitted by the Centre de Formation aux Techniques Informatiques, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Counci

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2010/100.

10-36719X (E) 060510 150610

Statement

The Centre de Formation aux Techniques Informatiques is grateful to the Economic and Social Council for its invitation to civil society organizations to submit written statements in the framework of the Development Cooperation Forum. In the light of the economic crisis that the world has known since September 2008, the themes of development cooperation in times of crisis and new commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals are highly relevant.

The economic crisis, which started in the United States as a result of the malfunctioning of the United States banking system, has spread worldwide. This economic crisis, which Africa has not caused, has virtually annihilated the efforts and sacrifices made by Africans for years to escape extreme poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Africa has been hit hard by this crisis. According to the International Labour Organization report on global trends in employment, the number of vulnerable workers who have been thrown into poverty has risen from 45 million to over 100 million.

The Centre de Formation aux Techniques Informatiques calls upon the international community to redouble their efforts in the areas of governance and solidarity.

The Centre de Formation aux Techniques Informatiques encourages African countries to join and vigorously implement the African Peer Review Mechanism. The fundamental objective of the Mechanism is to encourage the adoption of policies, standards and practices aimed at promoting political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and subregional and continental economic integration, which could be accelerated through the sharing of experiences and reinforcement of best practices and achievements, including the identification of deficiencies and the assessment of needs in the area of capacity-building.

The Centre de Formation aux Techniques Informatiques urges greater efforts to regulate international economic activity under the aegis of the United Nations. Norwegian economists have estimated that approximately 20 per cent of the funds deposited in tax havens come from developing countries, which amounts to between $2,200 billion and $2,400 billion or thirty times what developing countries receive in aid. Tax evasion in developing countries amounts to about 10 times the quantity of aid provided by rich countries and about 6 to 8.7 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of those countries. By comparison, the tax revenues of the poorest countries account for 13 per cent of their GDP.

Just as there is an international tribunal for crimes against humanity, there could be an international tribunal for economic crimes.